

EARSDON

Urban District Council.

REPORTS

OF

TAYLOR DIXON, M.B., B.S.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

AND


J. R. MACMILLEN,

INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.

1915.

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EARS DON,
FEBRUARY, 1916.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE
Earsdon Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to forward you my Report for the twelve months ending 31st December, 1915.

POPULATION.

The Population of the District according to the census of 1911 was 10,570, and estimated to the middle of 1915, is:—

Earsdon Township	... ..	3,795
Backworth Township	... ..	2,126
Holywell Township	... ..	3,241
Murton Township	... ..	1,209
		<hr/>
		10,371

AREA.

The total area of the District is 4,711 acres.

BIRTHS.

333 births have been registered in the District, with one birth which occurred outside the District, gives a total of 334, being a decrease of 46 as compared with last year. These are apportioned as follows:—

Earsdon Township	... ..	136
Backworth Township	.....	47
Holywell Township	... ..	105
Murton Township	... ..	46
		<hr/>
		334

These births give a birth rate at 32.2 per 1,000 per annum. In 1914 the rate was 34.54 per 1,000 per annum.

The Notification of Births Act came into force during the year. It has been agreed to adopt the scheme of the Northumberland County Council for the efficient carrying out of the visitation of cases in this and the adjoining Districts.

DEATHS.

The total number of deaths, after adding 20 residents who have died outside the District, and deducting 5 non-residents who

died in the District is 191, and gives a death rate of 18.41 per 1,000 per annum.

The death rate for 1915, corrected for difference in sex and age constitution, was 18.55.

In 1914 the rate was 14.9, and the corrected rate 15.02.

These deaths are allocated to the following Townships:—

Earsdon	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	66
Backworth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Holywell	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	60
Murton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
								<hr/>
								191

ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE.

There have been 28 deaths from Zymotic Disease, which gives a death rate of 2.6 per 1,000 per annum.

In 1914 this rate was 3.27 per 1,000 per annum.

In 1913 this rate was 1.74 per 1,000 per annum.

Of these deaths 9 were residents of Earsdon Township; 2 of Backworth Township; 13 of Holywell Township; and 4 of Murton Township.

17 of these deaths were under 1 year; 2 between one and two years; seven between two and five years; 1 between five and fifteen years; and 1 between twenty-five and forty-five years.

The decrease in the Zymotic death rate is no doubt due to the lesser number of infectious cases which have occurred during the year.

PHTHISIS (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) DEATH RATE.

There have been 12 deaths from Phthisis, the same as last year, which gives a death rate of 1.15 per 1,000 per annum. These are allocated to the following Townships:—

Earsdon	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Backworth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Holywell	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Murton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
								<hr/>
								12

In 1914 the rate was 1.09 per 1,000 per annum.

Table 1. Marsdon Urban District, —Vital Statistics of whole district during 1915 and previous years

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.†		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Un- corrected Number.	Nett.		Number. *	Rate.	Of Non- Residents registered in the District. †	Of Resi- dents not registered in the District. †	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Number. †	Rate.					Number. *	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number. *	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1910	10,500	—	375	35·71	155	14·76	1	—	64	170	154	14·66
1911	10,570	—	322	30·47	163	15·42	4	7	54	167	166	15·70
1912	10,800	359	361	33·42	125	11·57	—	18	30	83	143	13·24
1913	10,900	356	357	32·75	144	13·21	5	17	46	128	156	14·31
1914	11,000	377	380	34·54	147	15·02	3	20	45	118	164	15·02
1915	10,371	333	334	32·2	176	16·	5	20	59	176	191	18·41

NOTES.—This Table is arranged to show the gross births and deaths in the district, and the births and deaths properly belonging to it with the corresponding rates. For years before 1911 some of the corrected rates probably will not be available. The rates should be calculated per 1,000 of the estimated gross population, as stated in Column 2, without the use of the standardising factor for the district given in the Annual Report of the Registrar-General. In a district in which large Public Institutions for the sick or infirm seriously affect the statistics, the rates in Columns 5 and 13 may be calculated on a nett population, obtained by deducting from the estimated gross population the average number of inmates not belonging to the district in such institutions.

* In Column 6 are to be included the whole of the deaths registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district.

† In Column 12 is to be entered the number in Column 6, corrected by subtraction of the number in Column 8 and by addition of the number in Column 9. Deaths in Column 10 are to be similarly corrected by subtraction of the deaths under 1, included in the number given in Column 8, and by addition of the deaths under 1 included in the number given in Column 9.

† The Medical Officer of Health will be able from the returns made to him by the local Registrar of Deaths, as well as from the quarterly lists furnished by the Registrar-General, to fill in Column 8 in accordance with the rule in the next paragraph below. The Registrar-General, either directly or through the County Medical Officer of Health, will supply the Medical Officer of Health with the particulars of deaths to be entered in Column 9; and all such deaths must be included in this Column, unless an error is detected, and its correction has been accepted by the Registrar-General. For Column 4 the Registrar-General will furnish to the Medical Officer of Health a Statement of the number of births needing to be added to or subtracted from the total supplied by the local Registrar.

† “Transferable Deaths” are deaths of persons who, having a fixed or usual residence in England or Wales, die in a district other than that in which they resided. The deaths of persons without fixed or usual residence, *e.g.*, casuals, must not be included in Columns 8 or 9, except in certain instances under 3 (b) below. The Medical Officer of Health will state in Column 8 the number of transferable deaths of “non-residents” which are to be deducted, and will state in Column 9 the number of deaths of “residents” registered outside the district which are to be added in calculating the nett death-rate of his district.

The following special cases arise as Transferable Deaths:—

(1) Persons dying in Institutions for the sick or infirm, such as hospitals, lunatic asylums, workhouses, and nursing homes (but not almshouses) must be regarded as residents of the district in which they had a fixed or usual residence at the time of admission. If the person dying in an Institution had no fixed residence at the time of admission, the death is not transferable. If the patient has been directly transferred from one such institution to another, the death is transferable to the district of residence at the time of admission to the first Institution.

(2) The deaths of infants born and dying within a year of birth in an Institution to which the mother was admitted for her confinement should be referred to the district of fixed or usual residence of the parent.

(3) Deaths from Violence are to be referred (a) to the district of residence, under the general rule; (b) if this district is unknown, or the deceased had no fixed abode, to the district where the accident occurred, if known; (c) failing this to the district where death occurred, if known; and (d) failing this to the district where the body was found.

Total population at all ages, 10,570; total families or separate occupiers, 2,180 at census of 1911. Area of district in acres (land and inland water), 4,711.

Table III.—Earsdon Urban District.—Deaths registered during the Calendar Year 1915 classified by Age and Cause.

CAUSES OF DEATH.				Nett Deaths at the subjoined Ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.										Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non-Residents" in Institutions in the District.
				All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and upwards.		
1				2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
All Causes	{	Certified	..	186	58	13	13	11	8	19	31	33	...	
		Uncertified	...	5	1	...	..	...	..	...	4	...	...
Enteric Fever	...	...	..	1	..	...	..	...	..	1	...	...	...
Small Pox...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	13	6	1	5	1	..	...	..	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	..	..	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	..	2	2	...	...	..	..	...	...	..	...
Diphtheria and Croup	...	...	..	3	..	..	2	1	..	...	..	..	...
Influenza	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	..	...	...	..	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	..	...	..	12	...	..	2	3	1	3	3	...	...
Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	..	6	1	2	1	1	1	...	...	..	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	3	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	..
Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	11	...	...	...	...	...	1	8	2	..
Rheumatic Fever	..	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	..	...	...	...
Organic Heart Disease	...	...	..	21	...	...	...	...	2	2	8	9	...
Bronchitis	...	...	...	12	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	..	19	7	4	1	...	...	2	4	1	...
Other diseases of respiratory organs	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	..
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	...	...	..	13	8	1	..	...	...	1	...	3	...
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	..	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Alcoholism	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	...	...	..	4	...	...	...	...	..	...	2	2	...
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	...	...	..	3	...	..	...	...	...	2	1	...	...
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	...	...	...	30	27	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	..	...	...	12	...	..	1	3	2	3	3	...	...
Suicide	..	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
Other Defined Diseases	...	...	...	25	1	2	...	2	1	3	5	11	...
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	..	...	...	..
Totals				191	59	13	13	11	8	19	35	33	...	
SUB-ENTRIES included in above figures :														
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis				...	...	...	...	..	..	...	...	...	..
Poliomyelitis				...	...	...	...	..	..	...	...	...	..

Table IIIa.—Earsdon Urban District.—Allocation of Zymotic Deaths to Sub-Districts.

Zymotic Diseases.	Earsdon.	Backworth.	Holywell.	Murton.	Whole District.
Enteric Fever ... ..	...	1	...	...	1
Small-pox ... ..	...	..	...	...	...
Measles	3	...	8	2	13
Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	2	...	...	...	2
Diphtheria and Croup ... ..	...	...	3	...	3
Diarrhœa and Enteritis (under 2 years)	4	1	2	2	9
TOTALS	9	2	13	4	28

INFANT MORTALITY.

There have been 59 deaths of children under one year (an increase of 14 upon last year), which gives a mortality rate of 176. per 1,000 births.

In 1914 the rate was 118. per 1,000 births.

	Number of Deaths.	Mortality Rate.
Earsdon Township	21	154.41
Backworth Township	11	234.04
Holywell Township	15	142.85
Murton Township	12	260.86

No doubt due to the efficient supply of District Nurses, who attend most maternity cases, cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum are rare in the District.

Table IV.—Earsdon Urban District.—Infant Mortality.

1915 Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.				Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	4 weeks and under 3 months.	3 months and under 6 months.	6 months and under 9 months.	9 months and under 12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All Causes	{ Certified	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	{ Uncertified	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Chicken-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	3	6
	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
	Diphtheria and Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
	Abdominal Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Convulsions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
	Laryngitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Bronchitis	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	3	2	7
	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	3	7
{	Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
	Enteritis	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	4	1	...	8
	Gastritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Rickets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Suffocation, overlying	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Injury at Birth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Atelectasis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Congenital Malformations	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	2
	Premature Birth	...	...	6	1	1	...	8	1	...	...	...	9
	Atrophy, Debility, and Marasmus	...	...	8	2	1	...	11	2	2	...	1	16
	Other Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals				14	5	3	...	22	6	9	12	10	59

Nett Births registered during the calendar year { Legitimate 320
 { Illegitimate... .. 14

Nett Deaths registered during the calendar year of { Legitimate Infants .. 55
 { Illegitimate Infants ... 4

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There have been 94 cases of infectious diseases during the year, a decrease of 220 upon last year, and which represents an attack rate of 9.06 per 1,000 per annum of the estimated population.

The attack rate in 1914 was 28.5 per 1,000 per annum of the estimated population.

This is a great decrease upon the previous year.

The practice is still common for people to allow friends and neighbours to visit when there are cases of infectious disease. Handbills are delivered to each infected house warning the inmates against this practice.

Disinfection is carried out in all cases where possible.

It is very satisfactory to know that, although there have been an average of about 2,000 soldiers resident in the district, there has been no case of infectious disease amongst them, except the case of a soldier who was sent by the Military Medical Officer to the Northern Military Hospital in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and was there diagnosed as Cerebral Spinal Meningitis.

Every house where cases of infectious disease occurred was stamped outside with large red letters since the troops come to the district, and it is interesting to note that, although there has been a number of infectious cases in the district, only two suspected cases have occurred amongst the troops, which cases proved to be negative.

The Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases is provided by the Earsdon Joint Hospital Board, and its use was recommended in all cases.

The Hospital Authorities have been able to accommodate a number of cases of infectious diseases occurring amongst the troops stationed in the adjoining districts.

The Head Teacher of each School has been notified of any case of notifiable infectious disease occurring in his district, and instructed to exclude all contacts for the regulation period.

A New Hospital has been erected in the Earsdon Township by the Military Authorities, containing 16 beds, which is to be taken over by the Joint Hospital Board after the war as a Small-pox Hospital.

There is now ample accommodation for all cases of infectious disease occurring in the District.

BACTERIOLOGICAL AID TO DIAGNOSIS.—Bacteriological aids have been utilised as an aid to diagnosis, chiefly in suspected Tubercular and Diphtheria cases.

A Disinfector would be an advantage at the Hospital for the use of the Joint Districts.

The diseases notified were Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Enteric Fever, Continued Fever, Tuberculosis and Erysipelas; and have occurred at the places and in the months indicated below.

SCARLET FEVER.

20 cases have occurred, which represent an attack rate of 1.92 per 1,000 per annum.

EARSDON TOWNSHIP.—12 cases; 4 in February, 1 in March, 1 in April, 2 in May, 2 in June, 1 in July, and 1 in October.

BACKWORTH TOWNSHIP.—2 cases; 1 in April, and 1 in August.

HOLYWELL TOWNSHIP.—3 cases; 2 in August, and 1 in November.

MURTON TOWNSHIP.—3 cases; 3 in January.

There was no fatal case during the year.

Eight cases were removed to the Hospital.

DIPHTHERIA.

26 cases have occurred, representing an attack rate of 2.5 per 1,000 per annum.

EARSDON TOWNSHIP.—4 cases; 1 in July, 1 in August, 1 in September, and 1 in October.

BACKWORTH TOWNSHIP.—1 case; 1 in June.

HOLYWELL TOWNSHIP.—21 cases; 4 in January, 3 in February, 3 in May, 3 in August, 2 in October, 3 in November, and 3 in December. The explanation of the number of cases at Holywell is the probability of the infection having been carried from the adjoining District of Seaton Delaval, where the disease was prevalent.

20 cases were removed to Hospital, and 3 deaths occurred.

ENTERIC FEVER.

Five cases have been notified during the year:—

EARSDON TOWNSHIP.—2 cases; 1 in September and 1 in December.

BACKWORTH TOWNSHIP.—2 cases; 2 in March.

HOLYWELL TOWNSHIP.—1 case; 1 in February.

Four cases were removed to Hospital, and 1 death occurred.

CONTINUED FEVER.

There have been two cases notified during the year.

MURTON TOWNSHIP.—1 in March.

HOLYWELL TOWNSHIP.—1 in September.

Both cases were removed to Hospital.

ERYSIPELAS.

There have been four cases, all of a mild type.

EARSDON TOWNSHIP.—2 cases; 1 in September, and 1 in October.

BACKWORTH TOWNSHIP.—2 cases; 1 in January, and 1 in December.

No case proved fatal.

TUBERCULOSIS (All Forms).

35 cases have been notified; 23 of Pulmonary, and 12 of other forms, being an increase of 10 cases upon last year.

EARSDON TOWNSHIP.—14 cases; 2 in April, 1 in June, 2 in July, 2 in September, 5 in November and 2 in December.

BACKWORTH TOWNSHIP.—7 cases; 2 in February, 1 in March, 1 in April, 2 in August, and 1 in September.

HOLYWELL TOWNSHIP.—9 cases; 1 in January, 3 in February, 1 in May, 1 in July, 1 in October, and 1 in December.

MURTON TOWNSHIP.—5 cases; 1 in February, 1 in March, 1 in August, 1 in November, and 1 in December.

18 deaths have occurred, some of these cases being notified the previous year.

These cases have been visited, and received every attention. Where necessary recommendations are made with regard to deficient ventilation or insanitary conditions which may exist. There is an increased desire amongst patients suffering from this disease for Sanatorium treatment. Five cases received Sanatorium treatment and others Domicillary treatment.

Many of the colliery houses in this district have small kitchens, in which the people live, instead of occupying their larger rooms. They generally have large fires, and will not have proper ventilation, which condition is favourable to the contraction of the disease. Disinfection is always offered after a fatal case of this disease.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Two cases have occurred. One in Earsdon Township in April, and one in Holywell Township in May.

Table II.—Earsdon Urban District.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1915.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.							TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY. (e.g., Parish or Ward) of the District.				TOTAL CASES RE-MOVED TO HOSPITAL.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						1 Earsdon	2 Backworth.	3 Holywell.	4 Murton.	
		Under 1.	1 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.						65 and upwards.
Small-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera (C) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague (P) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (incl'dg Membranous Croup) ...	26	5	15	3	3	...	...	4	1	21	...	20
Erysipelas ...	4	...	...	...	2	...	...	2	2	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	20	3	15	1	1	...	...	12	2	3	3	8
Typhus Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever ...	5	...	1	1	3	...	...	2	2	1	...	4
Relapsing Fever(R) ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued Fever(C) ...		...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	1	2
Puerperal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Polionmyelitis ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	23	...	7	4	7	5	...	10	5	4	4	5
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	12	1	5	...	2	...	...	4	2	5	1	...
Totals ...	94	3	12	43	10	19	7	35	14	36	9	39

Isolation Hospitals—Scaffold Hill Hospital (Longbenton Urban District), Earsdon Joint Hospital Board, Blencathra and Fellside, Hexham (Northumberland County Council).

Table X.—Earsdon Urban District.

1915. STATISTICS OF SUB-DISTRICTS.

Sub-Districts.				Population (estimated middle of 1915.)	Births (nett.)	Deaths (nett.)	Infant Deaths under 1 year (nett.)
Earsdon	...	..	...	3,795	136	66	21
Backworth	...	...	...	2,126	46	38	11
Holywell	...	...	...	3,241	105	60	15
Murton	...	...	...	1,209	47	27	12
Whole District ...				10,371	334	191	59

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT, 1909.

Appended is a tabular statement, as required by Article V. of the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, in regard to the Inspection of Dwelling-houses under Section 17 (1) of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909.

163 inspections have been made by your Sanitary Inspector, who is the Officer appointed under the Act.

Notices have been served on the several owners pointing out the defects found. Only six new houses have been erected during the year in the Earsdon Township; four have water-closet and two have ash-closet accommodation. No plans for new houses are now passed which do not provide for the water-carriage system.

In the adjoining district of Longbenton the 60 new houses, which were built last year, are now occupied. As they are now tenanted by the workmen previously residing in this District, it has served to relieve the congestion and tendency to overcrowding which previously existed.

Owing to the war, a commencement has not yet been made with the proposed houses to be built under this Act at West Holywell.

Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910.

1915.

Tabular Statement as required by Article V.

Sanitary District. Earsdon U.D.	Number of Dwelling-houses Inspected.	Number of Dwelling-houses which, on inspection, considered unfit for human habitation.	Number of representations made to Local Authority with a view to Closing Orders being made.	CLOSING ORDERS.		Number of Dwellings in which defects remedied without Closing Orders being made.	Number of Dwelling put into fit state for human habitation after Closing Orders made.	General Character of Defects Found.
				Number of Orders made.	Number of houses vacated at end of each year in consequence,			
Parishes or Sub-Districts.								
Earsdon	163	—	—	—	—	—	—	Structural defects, defective spouting, dampness, insufficient sanitary convenience, paving, want of proper ventilation, and overcrowding. Do. Do. Do.
Backworth	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Holywell... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Murton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Total for whole District	163	—	—	—	—	5	—	

Most of the houses inspected were old, and presented one or more of the defects enumerated in the Table. Attention has been drawn to this defective property, but little has been done in the way of improvements.

The workmen in the District are mostly engaged in coal-mining, and they, being well employed, the demand for houses has still exceeded the supply, thereby causing a certain amount of overcrowding.

There are now in the district 2,180 houses: 837 in Earsdon Township, 392 in Backworth Township, 741 in Holywell Township, and 210 in Murton Township. 169 of these have water-closet accommodation, 619 have ash-closet accommodation, and 1,392 have privy ashpit accommodation, some of which are large and uncovered, and, particularly in the hot weather, are offensive, and should be converted to the water-carriage system. Only one privy ashpit has been converted during the year, and four have been converted into ash-closets. 50 privies have been re-roofed in the Backworth and Earsdon Townships.

LIGHTING.

The main roads and streets in the District are efficiently lighted by electric lights in the Earsdon, Backworth and Holywell Townships, and by gas in the Murton Township; but the lighting has not been used this year, owing to the Lighting Restriction Order.

Owing to the war, fewer improvements than usual have been carried out during the year.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLY.—The district is supplied with water by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company. It is of good quality, and the supply has been constant.

The total consumption has been 52,243,000 gallons, as compared with 51,306,000 gallons consumed last year, an increase of 937,000 gallons upon that of last year. As this includes the amount used by the Military, whose numbers were frequently changed, I am unable to give the average consumption per head per day.

The water main has been extended to Wellfield, Earsdon, and the main diverted at Bates Cottages. A flush trough has been substituted in place of privy ash-closets for the Military billeted near Wellfield.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—All the sewage of the district is carried to the sea, with the exception of Bates Cottages, Havelock Place, and Low Steads, Backworth.

At Bates Cottages the Sewerage Disposal Works have been overhauled and new distributor fixed. The irrigation ground has been re-channelled, and the effluents, which discharge into the Seaton Burn, are satisfactory. The sewage from Havelock Place and Low Steads is still discharged into the open ditches.

130 yards of new sewer has been laid at Wellington Avenue, Earsdon; and a new sewer has been laid across the road to East Farm and Cottages at Backworth Village.

80 yards of old drains have been taken up and re-laid in the District.

SCAVENGING.—The disposal of refuse is still done by the division of the district into fourteen sections, let by tender to Contractors, who are required to empty the ashpits and closets regularly.

Since the outbreak of the war a large number of soldiers have been stationed in the district. Some have been billeted in the Schools, Clubs, and other buildings, and others in the wooden huts erected in the Earsdon and Backworth Townships. Most of the buildings have water-closet accommodation. In others latrines have been erected, which I have inspected in company with the Military Medical Officers.

These have been regularly scavenged by the Sanitary Authority, and the refuse removed in properly constructed carts.

Owing to the scarcity of labour the scavenging of the year has not been very satisfactory, and I would again recommend the Council to purchase carts and horses, and have the work done by their own workmen.

ADOPTED ACTS.—Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890; Private Street Works Act, 1892; Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907 (parts 1, 2 and 3).

SCHOOLS.—There are now eight schools in the district, all having a plentiful supply of water. Six of these, namely: 2 at Earsdon, 1 at Backworth, 1 at New York, 1 at Seaton Terrace, and 1 at East Holywell, have properly constructed water-closets. The privy ashpits at the school at Bates Cottages, Holywell, have now been replaced by water-closets. The Catholic Schools at Backworth still have privy pails.

The Schools at Seaton Terrace and Backworth were disinfected during the year.

A nuisance has been caused by some of the farmers in the district depositing the refuse from the ashpits too near the turnpike roads, which should not be allowed.

STREET IMPROVEMENTS.—The road through Holywell Village has been widened by the Northumberland County Council, a block of obstructive buildings having been removed. This improvement has done away with a constant source of danger to the public from road traffic.

The railway crossing on the road leading from Backworth Station to Backworth Village has been re-laid and improved.

The Road from Backworth Station towards Shiremoor has been re-laid with tar macadam.

GARDEN ALLOTMENTS AND RECREATION GROUNDS.—All the garden allotments are tenanted, and the Recreation Grounds at Seaton Terrace and Shiremoor have been taken full advantage of.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.—In conjunction with your Sanitary Inspector, these have been inspected during the year, and were found to be satisfactory. The notices to whitewash were issued as usual, and were complied with.

There are 27 cowkeepers and 3 purveyors of milk in the district, who conform to all requirements in carrying on their business.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.—There are 8 slaughter houses in the district, which have been periodically inspected.

The removal of offal has been regularly carried out, but suitable iron carts have not yet been provided by all for this purpose.

No bye-laws have yet been framed and adopted for the regulation of these premises.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS,

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Prosecutions. (4)
Factories ... (Including Factory Laundries) ...	12	—	—
Workshops ... (Including Workshop Laundries) ...	42	—	—
TOTAL... ..	54	—	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecu- tions. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i>				
Nil				

* Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901 as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

3 — HOME WORK.

Nil.

4 — REGISTERED WORKSHOPS

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year (1)								Number. (2)
Blacksmith Shops...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Workshop Bakehouse	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dressmakers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Carpenters...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Milliners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Shoemakers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Tailors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Total number of workshops on Register								21

5.— OTHER MATTERS.

Nil.

The general sanitary conditions of the District may be considered fairly satisfactory.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

TAYLOR DIXON,

Medical Officer of Health.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND THE MEMBERS OF THE
EARSDON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1915.

NEW BUILDINGS.

During the year only six houses have been erected: four semi-detached, and two self-contained houses in the Earsdon District.

In four of the houses water-closets have been fixed, four ash-closets have been erected in place of uncovered ashpits at Holywell Village; also the privies at Bates Cottages Schools have been replaced by water-closets. A water-closet has been fixed at New York in place of ashpit.

A water wash-out trough has been fixed at Wellfield Camps in place of the ash buckets by the Military Authorities. At all the Camps water-closets ought to be provided in place of other receptacles.

About 50 privies have been re-roofed at West Holywell, Havelock Place, Backworth Rows, and Shiremoor.

All new buildings erected after this date must have water-closets.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT, 1909.

163 houses have been inspected, and preliminary notices have been served on the owners pointing out the defects. The Council decided that until after the war no more houses had to be inspected.

The total number of houses inspected up to date is 673. The Register is kept and submitted to the Council each meeting.

HOUSING SCHEME, WEST HOLYWELL.

This has been postponed until after the war owing to the increased cost of building materials and the L.G.B. refusing to

grant loans. All the preliminaries in connection with the scheme are about complete so as to be ready after the present crisis is over.

Plans and all particulars have been forwarded to the L.G.B. for permission to Town Plan the whole of the District, and an Inquiry is about to be held.

ROADS AND STREETS.

A great improvement has been carried out by the County Council at Holywell Village by removing the dangerous corner.

An application was made to the County Council to improve the four road ends near Backworth Station.

The level crossing near Backworth Station has been paved with whin setts at the cost of about £110.

A portion of the Highway near Backworth Station has been laid with tar macadam, which is more cleanly, and will last longer than the water-bound macadam. In future I would suggest that nothing but tarred stone be used.

Also improvements have been carried out to the roads at Murton Village by the laying of about 300 yards of kerb stones.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

About 130 yards of 9-in. sewer has been laid on the Wellfield Estate, Earsdon.

A new sewer has been laid across the main road, to the East Farm, Backworth.

135 yards of new drains have been laid, and about 80 yards of old drains taken up and re-laid.

SEWERAGE WORKS.

At the Holywell Sewerage Works new distributors have been fixed. These works are still giving satisfaction. At the Holywell Dene Works new valves and penstocks have been fixed and the grounds re-channelled; a fairly good effluent is obtained.

WATER SUPPLY.

The whole of the District is supplied by water from the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company. It is bought in bulk, and distributed by the Council.

The water mains have been extended at Wellfield, Earsdon, and Bates Cottages.

The consumption of water for domestic purposes in the different Townships has been as follows:—

Township.	Estimated Population,	Gallons.	Average Consumption per head per day.
Earsdon 	3,795 ...	18,006,000 ...	13.0
Holywell 	3,241 ...	9,631,000 ...	8.2
Backworth 	2,126 ...	8,123,000 ...	10.4
Murton 	1,209 ...	2,850,000 ...	6.4
	<hr/> 10,371	<hr/> 38,611,000	<hr/> 9.5

The average consumption of water for the whole district has been 9.5 gallons per head per day as against last year 9.1 gallons.

You will notice that the civil population has decreased owing to the large number of men that have enlisted.

There has been a large number of troops in the district, on an average of about 2,000, therefore it is very difficult to get at the actual consumption per head per day.

The total consumption of water for all purposes in the district has been 52,243,000 gallons, as against 51,306,000 gallons last year.

The water supply by public standpost ought to be abolished, and each house have a separate supply laid on.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP.

21 workshops and 6 factories are on the register. These are inspected from time to time. No notices have been served on the owners.

SCAVENGING.

The scavenging is still carried out by contract, divided into 14 districts. The work has not been satisfactorily carried out.

I would again urge the Council to take into consideration the question of doing this work by the Council's own carts and horses. It would be more efficiently done.

Every assistance is rendered to the Military Authorities in connection with the sanitary arrangements of the various billets and camps in the district.

The refuse is removed from the different camps and billets every day by a tumbler-covered cart.

The cost of scavenging in the different Townships has been as follows:—

Earsdon	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£445	0	0
Holywell	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£279	0	0
Backworth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£243	0	0
Murton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£80	0	0
									<hr/>		
Total as per contract	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£1,047	0	0
Cost of removing camp refuse											
up to Dec. 31st, 1915	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£244	18	8
									<hr/>		
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£1,291	18	8

As against a total cost last year of £865 9s. 0d.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

57 cases of infectious diseases have been notified during the year. Each case reported is visited and removal to Hospital recommended. 34 cases were removed to Hospital, and 39 houses fumigated; this included four houses after fatal cases of consumption, also 20 huts at Backworth; Co-operative Hall, Seaton Terrace; Seaton Terrace Schools, and Backworth Schools.

A Hospital, with Administrative Block for Smallpox has been erected at the Grange by the Earsdon Joint Hospital Board; accommodation, 16 beds, at the cost of about £1,200.

Plans have been approved by the L.G.B. for the erection of a Steam Disinfector and Laundry Block at Scaffold Hill for the Earsdon Joint Hospital Board, the erection of which has been deferred until after the war.

RECREATION GROUNDS AND ALLOTMENTS.

All the Allotments are fully let. The leasing of further land for this purpose has been deferred.

LIGHTING.

The whole of the lighting in the Urban District has been discontinued during the war.

WORK EFFECTED.

Privy ash-pits abolished—4.

Ash-closets substituted—4.

Water-closets—7.

New drains laid—yards—135.

Old drains taken up and re-laid—yards—80.

Houses disinfected—39.

Schools disinfected—2.

Other buildings—21.

1915.—Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report.

Name of District Earsdon Urban District. Population 10,371. Name of Inspector J. R. MACMILLAN	Housing.				Water Supply unsatisfactory.	Drainage.		Sanitary Conveniences,			Dairies and Cowsheds.	Slaughter-houses.	Offensive Trades.	Bakehouses.	Other Workshops.	Nuisances from Keeping of Animals.	Paving of Yards.	Other Nuisances.	TOTALS.
	Structural Defects.	Overcrowding.	Defective Spouting.	Dampness.		Foul.	Untrapped or Dilapidated.	Structural Defects.	Insufficient.	Foul.									
Number of Inspections made, 163	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	90	32	12	4	50	20	20	...	391
Number of defects or contraven- tions of bye-laws found ...	27	3	9	24	27	1	10	1	62	81	15	2	...	1	...	6	20	6	295
Number of Informal Notices by Inspector	27	3	9	24	27	1	10	1	62	81	15	2	...	1	...	6	20	6	295
Number of defects or contraven- tions remedied after Informal Notice	4	...	2	2	13	...	9	1	...	81	15	2	...	1	...	2	...	6	138
Number of Statutory Notices served by Local Authority ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
Number of defects or contraven- tions remedied after Statutory Notice ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...

WORK EFFECTED :—Privy Ashpits roofed, 50 ; Privy Ashpits abolished, 4 ; W.C.'s substituted, 7 ; Ash Closets substituted, 4 ; Houses Disinfected, 62.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

Bye-laws for Keeping of Animals.

Bye-laws for Slaughter Houses.

Bye-laws as to Deposit of Manure.

All Ash-pits done away with and Water-closets substituted.

The work of the district has been considerably curtailed on account of the difficulty of obtaining men and material.

The office assistant and three of your workmen have enlisted in the Army.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

J. R. MACMILLEN, C.R.S.I.,

Inspector of Nuisances.

